Meet the artists!
Maria Martinez learned how to make pottery from her aunt. She collaborated with other family members throughout her career: her husband, Julian; her daughter-in-law, Santana; and her sons, Adam and Popovi Da. She would prepare the clay and shape the pots while others painted the designs. After Popovi Da became his mother’s main pottery partner as an adult, he experimented with new firing processes and techniques to create different pottery colors.

What’s an avanyu?
This serpent with horns and feathers symbolizes the importance of water in the dry area of New Mexico where the Pueblo people live. The creature’s curves suggest flowing water, and its zig-zagging tongue looks like lightning.

Based on the form of this pot, what do you think it might have been used for originally?

What other designs could represent the importance of water in a desert region?

What skills have been passed down to you by an older family member or friend?
**DO**

**Don't try this at home!**

Make a coil pot.

Things you will need:
- Playdough or air-dry clay
  (An amount about the size of a baseball or tennis ball is good, but less is fine.)

Steps to get started:
- Break your clay into 4 – 5 smaller pieces of approximately equal size. Roll each piece into a smooth ball.
- One ball will become the base of your pot. Flatten this ball into a thick circle.
- Roll out the other balls into coils or snakes. Don’t make them too long and skinny or else they may break!
- Set the first coil on top of your base and then wind it around the edge until you have a complete ring. Press gently so that it stays in place.
- Continue stacking coils until you like the size of your pot... or until you run out of dough.
- You can shape your pot by making the rings slightly bigger or smaller as you add each layer.